

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 USIE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 INR-07

CIAE-00 PRS-01 SS-15 /043 W

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R 151736Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 817

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 8849

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CO

SUBJECT: LOPEZ STATE VISIT; LOPEZ STATEMENT ON NARCOTICS AND  
HIS MIND SET.

REF: BOGOTA 8825

TWO ASPECTS OF LOPEZ STATEMENT ON NARCOTICS, REPORTED  
REFTEL, ARE WORTH NOTING WITH RESPECT TO THE UPCOMING  
VISIT AND SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND BY WASHINGTON PARTICIPANTS:  
A) THROUGH ANGER DID PROMPT LOPEZ REACTION TO THE  
NYT EDITORIAL, IT PROBABLY DID REVEAL-AS ANGER IS SOME-  
TIMES WONT TO DO-A DEEP BELIEF THAT IN MORE NORMAL CIR-  
CUMSTANCES HE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE RESTRAINED IN EXPRESSING.  
THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING IN COLOMBIA  
THAT THE DRUG TRAFFIC IS OUR PROBLEM, AND THAT IT IS THE US  
MARKET AND US CRIME RINGS THAT STIMULATE THE TRAFFIC IN LATIN  
AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT EDITORIAL  
COMMENT YESTERDAY AND TODAY SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S CHARGE.  
IF NARCOTICS COMES UP IN THE PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATION, IT CAN  
BE EXPECTED THAT HE WILL START FROM THE PREMISES HE EXPOUNDED  
IN THE COMMUNIQUE, VIZ, THAT WE HAVE A PRIME RES-  
PONSIBILITY OURSELVES. HE MAY IN FACT TAKE THE  
INITIATIVE IN INTRODUCING THE TOPIC. AN INITIAL  
GAMBIT BY US FOCUSED ON COLOMBIAN COOPERATION MAY BE  
THE WRONG TACTIC SINCE IT WILL LEAD HIM TO DEMAND WE DO  
MORE IN THE US. PERHAPS THE BEST TACTIC WOULD BE FRANKLY  
TO NOTE HIS COMMENT, EXPLAIN WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE, AND HOW  
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THE GOC HELPS US, ETC.

B). ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S REACTION  
WAS THE SLOWLY BUILDING RESENTMENT AT WHAT HE HAS SEEN--  
AND NOT COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIEDLY--AS DISTORTED REPORTING IN  
THE US PRESS ABOUT COLOMBIA. THIS HAS BEEN A THEME IN ALL  
HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH ME. THE MAIN TARGET OF HIS  
IRE HAS BEEN MARVINE HOWE, PARTICULARLY HER ARTICLE IN  
THE JULY 20 NYT, "COLOMBIA: FROM LOFTY AIMS TO SIEGE".  
RECENT STATEMENTS IN US EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE RINCON  
ASSASSINATION, SUCH AS THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR TO THE  
EFFECT THAT COLOMBIAN INFLATION WAS OVER 30 PERCENT  
(A CLEAR ERROR) TO ILLUSTRATE THE ALLEGATION THAT THE HOME  
FRONT WAS A MESS, HAS ADDED TO HIS IRE.  
THIS SENSE OF AGGRIEVEMENT THAT THE  
COLOMBIAN SITUATION IS WRONGLY REPORTED IN THE US IS VERY  
MUCH IN HIS MIND AS THE TRIP NEARS. CONSEQUENTLY WASHINGTON  
PARTICIPANT CAN EXPECT THAT THIS FEELING WILL COME THROUGH  
IN MUCH OF WHAT HE SAYS PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY.  
VAKY

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